

Reinstating the Uptick rule so that short sellers do not have an advantage in driving down the value of stocks.

Today, I am introducing the "Stock Market Recovery Act of 2009," mandating the SEC to implement these reforms. I am confident this will be a first step continuing the 4 percent rise we have seen today.

THRIFT SAVINGS FUND IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act. This legislation expands the investment options available to congressional and other federal employees by creating a precious metals investment fund in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Adding a precious metals fund to the TSP will enhance the plan's ability to offer congressional employees a wide range of investment options that can provide financial security even during difficult economic conditions.

The Thrift Savings Plan is one of the most important benefits offered to congressional employees. A strong TSP can obviously play a key role in attracting and retaining talented individuals to serve in the legislative branch. Adding a precious metals option will strengthen the TSP. In the last year, the price of gold rose by 5.5 percent while the Dow Jones experienced one of its worst years ever, falling by 33.8 percent, while the NASDAQ declined by 40.5 percent!

Recent gains aside, precious metals have a number of features that make them a sound part of a prudent investment strategy. In particular, inflation does not erode the value of precious metals is not eroded over time. Thus, precious metals can serve as a valuable "inflation hedge." Precious metals also maintain, or even increase, their value during times of stock market instability, such as what the country is currently experiencing. Thus, investments in precious metals can help ensure that an investment portfolio maintains its value during times of economic instability.

Federal employees could greatly benefit from the protection against inflation and economic downturns provided by prudent investments in precious metals. I, therefore, once again urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Women's Day. Globally, women have made great advances in recent years. Currently, there is the largest number of women serving in Congress in the history of the United States, including 9 new female members of the House of Representatives and 3 new female Senators. Between 1945 and 1995, the number of woman

parliamentarians internationally quadrupled. Women like Benazir Bhutto, the first woman prime minister of a Muslim country, are demonstrative of the truly universal role women are playing in leadership and the progress we have made.

While these numbers are encouraging, there is still a long journey to true global equality for women. Seventy percent of the 1.2 billion individuals living in poverty are women. Similarly, eighty percent of world's refugees are women. While women control \$14 trillion in assets, they only own 1 percent of the world's land. Women are responsible for two-thirds of the world's work, but are paid only 10 percent of the world's income. In third-world countries, women continue to be oppressed, mutilated, and trafficked and they do not have the representation to stand up to these injustices.

As a woman, I wanted to take the opportunity to speak to the progress we have made and the progress we have yet to achieve. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure the continued progress for women internationally and at home.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105;

Requesting Member: Congressman SAM GRAVES

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project expected to be included in the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Description of Request: I am requesting funding for the Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO project in fiscal year 2009. The entity to receive funding for this project is Missouri Western State University located at 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO, 64507. The funding would be used for the acquisition of technology and equipment for Institute for Industrial and Applied Life Sciences. This funding is located in the Higher Education FIPSE account.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Education Award winner is Carole Payne of Boonton. Carole serves as the school nurse at Crim School. Carole helps develop health policies and procedures in the Bridgewater-Raritan School District. The New Jersey Department of Health asked her to come up with a manual on emergency care in the school setting for school nurses.

Carole is a certified EMT and active on the Boonton First Aid Squad. She also teaches at Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark and won the distinguished Johnson & Johnson School Nurse Fellowship.

I am pleased to congratulate Carole Payne for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING MILITARY FAMILIES OF OUR NATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues today the opportunity to recognize the outstanding military families of our nation. In Eastern Washington, I could not be more proud of the military families as well as our community that stands behind them. There is probably no other group more schooled in the art of patience than our military families. They have to learn to be flexible and to endure because they are apart of a system that for all its structure is still quite unpredictable.

Last August, the 81st Brigade from Washington State deployed to Iraq. Although it is challenging for the men and women who serve, it is sometimes harder for those at home. More often than not, as soon as the service member deploys, the spouse is faced with an unforeseen obstacle like their brand new car needing to go back to the shop or the refrigerator deciding not to work. Children often times go back to school and find it hard to understand why mom or dad has to miss their baseball game or piano recital. The families of the 81st Brigade have much catching up to do when they return home this summer. They will have a Thanksgiving to celebrate, Christmas presents to open, birthday candles to blow out, Easter eggs to hunt and many, many kisses and hugs to share.

A military spouse once wrote that "the cycle of deployments, missed holidays, lonely anniversaries, and long separations, isn't governed by any war or what's being debated on CNN. It is as much a part of our daily living as weekend business trips and conference calls are to the average business person. It is part of the job description." To all the military families in our nation, your character and bravery make you role models to us all and your service does not go unnoticed. Know that our nation is tremendously grateful for your commitment in standing beside your Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, or Marine so that he or she can fight to continue to protect our freedoms. Please accept my utmost and sincerest "thank you" for your honorable service.